

# The Hatchet

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## POPULAR • SCIENCE.

By this time Lieut. Peary has probably left his winter quarters and started on his trip to the Pole.

The Union Pacific Railway Company is providing its offices in large cities with a microscope for displaying some of the interesting points along the Overland route. Six sets of views have been provided, one of them being the Overland Limited going at a speed of a mile a minute.

Prof. Dewar found by using a rhodium-platinum resistance thermometer, and by the use of methods designed to overcome the difficulties arising from the presence of air in the hydrogen, that the boiling point was  $246^{\circ}\text{C}$ . A constant volume hydrogen thermometer working under diminished pressure gave  $252^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The pure platinum resistance thermometer gave  $238^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

A bill passed by the New Jersey Legislature on March 20, authorizes the appointment by the Governor of a committee of ten persons to be known as the Commissioners of the Palisades. These Commissioners shall have power to condemn lands and take all other steps necessary for the preservation of the cliffs, and the subsequent conversion of the lands into a park in conjunction with the authorities of New York State.

Crude petroleum is said to be a remedy which will destroy and prevent the germination of the San Jose scale. It is said that it not only destroys this pernicious insect, but it also stimulates the growth of the tree to which it is applied. It is thought, however, by the best authorities that the scale can only be eradicated by destroying the tree infested with the bug and petroleum baths are apt to be fatal to trees.

P. Bourcet has experimented with certain edible plants with the object of determining how they absorb the iodine they require, and he publishes a table which shows that under identical conditions of soil, moisture and exposure, some plants absorb much more iodine than others, while some do not absorb a trace. The Liliaceae and Chenopodiaceae were found to accumulate much more iodine than the Solanaceae or the Umbelliferae. In the case of the Composite and Cruciferae the absorption of iodine varies in different species.

Monte Baldo, between Lake Garda and the valley of the Adige, in Italy, was once the center of volcanic action, but in the early part of the present century this activity had apparently ceased. Last March, however, an indistinct rumbling was heard in the mountains which seem to come from the interior of the mountain. Deep fissures formed on the crest, whence hot steam is still ejected from time to time, which melts all the snow in the neighborhood. The indications are very similar to the preliminary symptoms which preceded the terrible eruption of Mount Tarawera in New Zealand, some thirteen years ago.

A German physician states that the wearing of veils is the cause of acne rosacea affecting the nose and he relates a number of instances in which young women, who were otherwise in excellent health, had their complexions impaired by wearing veils when riding, cycling, etc. He considers that the lesion is caused by the friction of the skin against the veil, impregnated with moisture from the breath, the effect being exaggerated by the tightness with which it is necessary to attach the veil when indulging in athletic pursuits. If veils must be worn while taking exercise, they should be loose, and the nose should be annointed with lanoline or some other suitable lubricant.

The investigations which have been carried on by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Stations on food adulterations shows that samples of ground coffee show a decrease in adulteration during the last four years, from 89 per cent to about 19 per cent. Fifty-six out of ninety-two samples of soda syrups were found adulterated. The fruit juices, all samples, five in number, were adulterated, and the bottled syrups fifteen out of twenty-three samples were adulterated. Out of the ninety samples of bottled carbonated drinks, thirty-three were adulterated. The chief agents were boracic and salicylic acids and coal-tar dyes. In the sirup of a single glass of soda water was found enough dye to color brilliantly a piece of white woolen cloth 6 inches square. The artificial extracts used in coloring are often of a nature to produce indigestion. Oysters and milk were also found to be kept by the aid of preservatives. The worst feature of the matter is that these foods are often prescribed for people who have feeble digestions.

Dr. A. MacFayden finds that bacteria may be kept at a temperature of  $-190^{\circ}\text{C}$ . for twenty hours without their vital powers being affected. The organism with which he experimented possessed varying degrees of resistance to external agents—the extremes being represented by the very sensitive spirillum of cholera asiatica, and the highly resistant spores of the anthrax bacillus. Pure cultures were taken of bacillus typhosus, B. coli communis, B. diptheria, S. cholera asiatica, B. proteus vulgaris, B. acid lactici, B. anthracis (sporing culture), staphylococcus pyogenes aureus, B. phosphorescens, and photobacterium balticum. They were simultaneously exposed to the temperature of liquid air ( $-182^{\circ}\text{C}$ . to  $190^{\circ}\text{C}$ .) for twenty hours, then carefully thawed and examined. In no instance could any impairment of vitality be detected, the fresh growth obtained being normal in every respect, and the functional activities of the bacteria quite unaffected. Experiments with representative types of organisms usually met with in the air—molds, bacilli, cocci, torulae and sarcinae—has similar results, while a sample of yeast cell plasma (Buchner's zymase) retained its peculiar properties unchanged as regards the production of carbon dioxide and alcohol, after twenty hours' exposure to the intense cold mentioned.

Color photography will, doubtless, in time be of great use for reproducing the medical and surgical aspects of disease. Mr. Ives has experimented upon this subject with his "Kromskop." It is easy to see its usefulness for lecturing and teaching purposes.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

As a rule, most criminals have large ears.

One-third of the area of Russia is forest land.

Dr. Couden, the blind chaplain of the United States Senate, shaves himself.

An electrical device for whipping convicts has been introduced in some of the French penitentiaries.

A Baltimore gentleman, advertising for a wife, announces some essential qualifications, and closes with the declaration that she "must be fond of dogs."

The grip has no terrors for a certain gentleman in Holton, Kan. He belongs to fifteen different secret societies, and in them has taken seventy-two degrees.

Governor Stanley, of Kansas, has granted conditional pardons to several convicts of that State, they agreeing not to drink intoxicants, not to gamble, violate any law, or shirk labor.

Drs. Thebault and Sappetier, two Parisian physicians, have discovered an anti-alcoholic serum. A few doses of it causes an unconquerable disgust for all alcoholic stimulants.

David Rankin, the millionaire farmer of Missouri, says he began life with a Colt revolver and a dollar bill. "For me," he adds, "there has always been an eleventh commandment, 'Thou shalt not sell corn.'"

John Peverly, a commercial traveler of Wichita, Kan., is second cousin to both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. Mr. Peverly's grandfather was first cousin to Lincoln's father, and his grandmother was first cousin to Davis' father.

A poor widow with seven children advertised in a New York paper for a temporary loan of \$50. She must have been a very deserving old lady, for she announced her willingness to permit the money-lender to "keep the children as security."

An atlas of the Upper Yang Tse Kiang, from Ichang westward to the head of junk navigation, drawn from the surveys of Father Chevalier, of the Jesuit Observatory at Si Ka Wei, is about to be published in sixty-five large sheets at Shanghai.

A Buffalo milkman is in trouble. To a customer he supplied milk which had earthworms in it, and the customer had him arrested. He has decided to carefully strain the water hereafter before he dilutes his milk with it, and use the worms for bait.

The oldest tree on earth with an authentic history the great Blootree of Burmah. For twenty centuries it has been held sacred to Buddha, and no person is allowed to touch the trunk. When the leaves fall they are carried away as relics by pilgrims.

Two passengers were in a cab in Paris when the discovery was made that the driver was apparently in a state of insensibility. A gendarme halted the rapidly moving vehicle and then learned that the driver was a corpse. He had died of heart disease.

An artisan in Lyons, France, has constructed a clock with a little platform and two doorways just under the dial. On the stroke of every hour the figure of a soldier comes out of one doorway, stands for a moment between the two doors, gives a military salute, and then fires a miniature pistol. At the hour of one there is one report; at the hour of six, six reports, etc.

The uncommon woes of a married lady in Damascus, Ohio, have impelled her to seek a divorce. To prevent her from going to a party she declared that her husband threw her false teeth in the fire and concealed her switch of false hair. Now she can't go out until he gives her money to secure new teeth, and he heartlessly refuses unless she promises to renounce parties for evermore.

## GHIPS.

There is a gentleman who I often meet at the "midway" and lately we noticed he seemed to look depressed, he was so much so, that we told him his looks would make his best girl leave him. He said that was just it, she was to be married the next day to a mine owner, he was but a poor clerk. And thus the world goes on in Washington.

It is very painful to see proud and haughty people trying to be civil. Their appearance is just perfectly awful to see the abject look they have.

The only way to describe prudery is hypocrisy.

Some coquets are only mashers in imagination, the most they can do is harmless to anyone.

Some people preach "look out for tomorrow." We believe it better to enjoy life while you live, tomorrow you may die, and some other fellows will enjoy your hard earned ducats.

Happiness and misery are not evenly divided. The majority of the world are out for happiness and get a tired feeling seeking for it, and a swelled head in the morning.

The mosquito season is near at hand, and the search for blood will soon begin. The Jersey mosquito is just anxiously looking for Washington suckers to bleed.

The people whose reason is not stronger than their passions, are to be pitied, and are led into many bad places and mountains of trouble.

If you wish to be truly happy, do not envy your neighbor, just let him paddle his own canoe, and you will enjoy your slumbers much better.

You have to be tempted to know just how good or bad you are. The fellow who has never been tempted has yet to be born.

A cunning woman, you should look out for her, she is to be feared, when she makes up her mind she wants a thing it has got to come or something awful will surely happen.

Some people loose by the "I can't do it." Just try and do the thing and you will be surprised how well you do it. We have a new business manager in THE HATCHET office, Harry C. Bonault, he will give cards to anyone and knock the clips off of any manager's shoulder in the city and he has only been in the business two weeks.

The House of Representatives fired one of its members for bribery. The member told them to go to hell and he would go west again and make harness.

One of the great reasons so few of us are happy is that we do not enjoy the happiness of others.

It is funny how the poor fellow is told the truth, and the rich are told a whole bunch of lies. It is good to be poor in that case.

There are people who have so much conceit in themselves that they imagine that nothing is done well unless it is done by themselves. And yet we find them holding down the street corners, and throwing the "cons" into some poor landlady for board and lodging.

Senator Clark says that "when the United States Senate throws him out they can go to 'hades' and he will go west and dig gold."

It is a waiting game to depend upon luck to bring you food to eat. Lots of fellows have starved right here in Washington depending upon luck to bring them food.

Money is like a chaste woman, the more you have of it the more you want to get.

"Ike" Cross has purchased the saloon, corner of 14th and Ohio Ave., N. W. He has many friends in the city, and though but a short time open he is doing a remarkably large bar business.

## CURIOUS FACTS.

The varieties of stamps now current in the world number 13,811. England has 131, her colonies 3,843. The United States has 268 different kinds, the Republic of Salvador 272.

A very curious thing has happened to the trees on one side of an avenue in Brussels. They developed the singular habit of shedding their leaves in August, and budding and even blossoming again in October. On the other side of the avenue the trees retain their foliage until late in autumn. Botanists are inclined to see in this an effect of current leakage from the electric railway.

Just when the day became divided into hours is not known; nor is the process explained. The Greeks and Romans measured time by the water glass and the sun dials. The hourglass filled with sand was the outgrowth of these vessels from which the water dripped through tiny openings.

The maidens of Denmark never experience the pleasure of receiving a diamond engagement ring. They are presented with a plain gold band, which is worn on the third finger of the left hand. On the wedding day the bridegroom changes the ring to the right third finger, which is the marriage finger in that country.

One of the happiest places in the world is said to be located at Orsa, in Sweden. The community has, in course of a generation, sold nearly \$5,000,000 worth of trees, and by means of judicious replanting has provided for a similar income every thirty or forty years. In consequence of this commercial wealth there are no taxes. Railways, telephones, etc., are free, and so are schoolhouses, teachings, and many other things.

The "walking fish" of Santa Catalina channel, California, is a member of the pediculate tribe, and has congeners among the gulf weed of the Mexican gulf. Its pectoral fins are shaped so as to serve for legs, and it can rest on them so as to snap its prey. It builds a nest of seaweed.

Some odd things happen in Cuba. When a man wishes a fence around his yard or field he doesn't build it, he plants it and it grows, too. First he cuts a great bundle of pinion twigs, then he scratches a little trench where he wants his fence to run, and finally he sticks in the twigs in a row a few inches apart. The soil of Cuba is so rich and the weather so warm and moist that directly the twigs take root, throw out branches and leaves, and presently there is a dense hedge of pinion trees enclosing the field. And there are no nails to drop out here nor boards to fall down and let in the cattle, and the fence is good for a hundred years.

HEURICH'S SENATE.—It is beer, and the very purest and best. Call for it. Bottled by the Arlington Bottling Co., 27 and K street, northwest.

## INJUNCTION FOR BREWERS.

Saloonkeeper Restrained from Selling Beer of Other Brews as Complainant's.

Judge Barnard in Equity Court No. 2 heard the injunction suit instituted by the Chr. Heurich Brewing Company against Leo Oedekoven a saloonkeeper, to restrain the defendant from selling beer brewed by other brewing companies as brewed by the complainant. The complainant alleged that for one month prior to the institution of the suit the defendant had not purchased any beer from them.

In rendering the decision the court ordered the injunction to be continued until the final hearing of the case.

Heurich's beer is the purest in the market, as can be tested in the Extra Pale Lager bottled by the Arlington Bottling Co., 27th and K streets northwest.

Rambling's Market is selling the best New York Cider at 25 cents per gallon. Opposite the Vendome Hotel, 3d street and Pennsylvania avenue Northwest.

## AMUSEMENTS

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